

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, October 26, 1756, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.**

WILLIAMSBURG Octr. 26th: 1756

SIR

I rec'd Your Letter from Augusta & observe its Contents—the Behaviour of the Militia is very unaccountable, & am convinc'd they are under no Command; I order'd Part of the Militia to the Frontiers & there to remain till reliev'd by others, which I propos'd shou'd be done in a monthly manner, & so to be continued by a proper Rotation, instead thereof they go & come at their own Pleasure, & many of them come here with large Demands, as if they had done the Duty directed; they are a dastardly set of People & under no management or Discipline, much owing to their Officers, who I fear are little better than the Private Men.

In my last I desired You to call a Council of Officers in regard to Fort Cumbl'd, & if thot. absolutely necessary to dismantle that Fortress & bring the Ammunition &c. to Winchester—Since that I have a Letter from the Earl of Loudoun, dated from Albany the 22d. of Sept. in which is the following Paragraph —

“And do hope & trust that the Government of Virginia will not suffer the Post of Fort Cumberland to be wrested from them; I cannot also but highly approve of Your building a fortified Magazine at Winchester, such may not only be of use to the present Defence

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of His Majesty's Dominions, but may be of the greatest Service when ever His Majesty's Arms shall have Opportunity of acting in that Quarter. ”

From which You may observe His Lordship's great Desire of retaining Fort Cumbld, therefore notwithstanding my former Orders, if You & the other Gentlemen Officers think it can be maintain'd with Safety, I shall be glad, which must still be left to Yr. Consultations; in the mean Time, if agreed on to be supported, I desire You may be bringing what of Ammunition You may think proper to Winchester. Your last Letter from Winchester came to my Hands the Day the Assembly broke up, so that I cou'd not lay before them the Requisites propos'd therein.

I have two Expresses now with my Lord, till they return I am uncertain of his coming here this Winter, & I fear the Affair of Oswego will detain him. I have sent two Drums to Alexandria—The Soldier's Cloathg. is expected in a Month's Time. I have been much out of Order & confin'd to my room this Fortnight, that I write this with Pain —

I remain Sir Your most hble Servant. ROBT. DINWIDDIE